

REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF THE
NEGRO WELFARE LEAGUE FOR THE MONTHS
OF SEPTEMBER AND OCTOBER.

October 28, 1917.

The very natural thing for one to do on coming into a new field is to spend some time getting acquainted with people places and things. Nothing definite could be attempted before a meeting of the executive committee was held to determine a program for the work to be done by the secretary. This meeting was not held until Monday, September 17, 1917. At this meeting a committee was appointed to outline a program for three months work, and there was, therefore a necessary wait until this committee met and consulted, which meeting was held on Friday, October 5, 1917.

The following is the work done by the secretary.

- 1 Realizing the importance of getting more houses for our people, the first thing done was to write to all the real estate agencies in the city and ask them for lists of houses which they would rent to respectable colored people.
 - 2 Letters were sent to the pastors of the various colored churches requesting them to ask their parishioners to send us their names and addresses if any of them kept lodging houses and an article was sent in the New Jersey Observer to the same effect. This was done so that strangers who might call on us might find decent and comfortable lodging quarters. We now have a fairly complete list of persons who are taking lodgers and who will give board.
 - 3 A topographical survey was made for the Tenement House Commission. Mr. Becker, head of the State Tenement House Commission wanted to be sure of the sections in which Negroes lived in the City, so the survey was made at his suggestion, although the secretary was about to do the same before consulting him.
 - 4 Cards were printed and distributed in various parts of the city telling people of the purpose and aim of the work.
 - 5 Permission was gotten from superintendents of big industrial plants which employ large numbers of Negroes to hold 10 minute noon day talks with the men. The purpose of this is twofold; recreational and instructive. There have been twelve such talks made during which there have been perhaps 1000 listeners.
 - 6 A thorough study was made of 10 Negro families in Newark in order to obtain the facts as to their earning power and their ability to pay more rent for better quarters. It is expected that some of the City Newspapers will publish the findings of this investigation with the photographs taken included in the publication.
- An attempt to raise funds for the carrying on of the

week. By personal interview there has been raised so far \$150. Other encouraging promises were given us, insuring us that a later call would bring aid. Letters of appeal are now being sent.

8 Four food demonstrations have been held under the auspices of the Friendly Visiting Committee. Miss Maud A. Conley, has been the demonstrator, assisted by Miss Clara Souder and Miss Virginia Robinson. The purpose of these demonstrations is to instruct people in the sensible buying of provisions and how best to prepare them so as to get the most value and saving from them. In all except the first demonstration, the provisions have been secured free of cost thru personal visits to shop keepers by the secretary.

9 The Organisation of our Big Brothers Movement on Friday, October 26, 1917.

10 Getting re-embursement for Mrs. Richardson for all visits made by her for the Municipal Bureau of Labor.

11 Plans made for the incorporation of the organization which is expected to take place this afternoon.